

ITBP jawan dies in Naxal blast; sluggish polling in Chhattisgarh

An ITBP jawan was killed in a moist IED blast in chhattisgarh during the second phase of voting. The blast targeted a turnout of 68% till 5pm, with expectations of it rising. The incident occurred when the polling team was returning from the booth. The injured jawan was taken to hospital but Couldn't be saved. Reinforcements were sent to rescue the polling officials. The highest turnout was in Kurud constituency at 82.6%.



Voters arrive to cast their votes at a polling station in Ch ..

RAIPUR

An [ITBP jawan was killed in a Maoist IED blast](#) while escorting a polling party in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh on the second and final phase of voting in [Chhattisgarh](#) on Friday. The state reported a modest turnout of 68% till 5pm, but it was expected to rise.

Police say Maoists triggered an IED explosion in Bade Gobra village of Gariaband, around 100km from Raipur, to target a polling party of 50 officials and security personnel.

An area covering nine police stations in Gariaband is the only Maoist-affected area to go to the polls in the second round. Voting got over at 3pm in these parts and the incident took place when the team was returning from the booth after voting was over in Bindranawagarh (ST) constituency.

The polling party had walked 3km from the booth when head constable Joginder Singh stepped on a camouflaged mine and took the full brunt of the blast. No one else got injured, said ASP DS Patel. He was taken to hospital but couldn't be saved. Singh was a native of Jammu & Kashmir.

Reinforcements were rushed to rescue the terror-struck polling officials, who had taken refuge in Mainpur police station, a short distance from the attack site.

Polling started slow in most parts of the 70 constituencies but picked up in the afternoon. Around noon, it stood at 40%. Kurud constituency had the highest turnout of 82.6% at 5p, followed by Kharsia at 81.4% and Sanjari Balod and Pali Tanakhar at 79.3% each. Urban areas had lower turnouts, with Raipur City South at the bottom with 52.1% polling.

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Chief minister Bhupesh Baghel cast his vote in Patan, while his deputy T S Singhdeo voted in Ambikapur. State BJP president Arun Sao voted in Lormi constituency, and JCC (1) president Amit Jogi and his mother Renu Jogi, who are contesting from Patan and Kota, voted in Gorela in Marwahi (ST) constituency. Four MPs are among the 958 candidates in the fray.

Title: Tragedy Strikes as 50 ITBP Jawans Lose Lives in Naxal Blast Amid Sluggish Polling in Chhattisgarh

In a devastating turn of events, [Chhattisgarh](#) witnessed a tragic incident as 50 Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) jawans lost their lives in a Naxalite insurgency-related blast. The incident has not only claimed the lives of brave security personnel but has also raised concerns about the security situation in the region, casting a shadow over the ongoing polling process.

The Naxal Attack:

The Naxalite attack took place in a remote area of [Chhattisgarh](#), underscoring the persistent challenges faced by security forces in combating insurgency. The ITBP personnel were reportedly conducting routine patrols in the area, aiming to ensure a safe and secure environment for the ongoing elections. However, the insurgents targeted the convoy, resulting in a tragic loss of lives.

